

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BONITA SHEPHERD'S
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the admirable and steadfast service of Bonita "Bonnie" Shepherd. Bonnie is preparing to retire at the end of this year following 48 years of public service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bonnie started working in the House on June 18th, 1967. In the 48 years since, she has been an invaluable member of the Capitol Hill community. She began her lifelong commitment to public service working in the Rayburn Cafeteria, where she served thousands of tourists, Members, and staff. She continued her service, working the past 27 years for the Architect of the Capitol, where she helps transport Members to votes as an elevator operator. When she isn't helping get Members to votes on time, she is honoring our greatest American heroes and loved ones through her work in the House flag office.

I have only had the opportunity to know Bonnie for the last three years, but her commitment to service and gracious attitude have left an indelible impression on me and thousands of others who have gotten to meet her. I want to wish her the best as she begins her retirement, and thank her for her public service to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Financial Group for being recognized with a 2015 Women of Innovation award at the eighth annual Women of Innovation Awards hosted by the Technology Association of Iowa. Overall, 10 women, along with a single corporation, were recognized with innovation awards. The award highlights today's extraordinary women and recognizes leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Principal Financial Group is a Des Moines based global investment manager. More than 45 percent of the organization's IT professionals are women. Principal Financial is also involved in a number of efforts to support STEM education throughout the community and the entire state.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent community leaders like those at Principal Financial Group in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them

today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Principal Financial Group on receiving this award and wishing each of their employees nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF ISRAELI HOSPITALS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the efforts of the Israeli hospitals and medical teams treating the Syrians injured as a result of their country's continued violence.

Numerous Syrians travel to the Israeli border in their hour of need, and in an act of compassion Israeli hospitals have provided lifesaving medical treatment. Medical teams along the Syrian and Israeli border treat these Syrians in field hospitals, and those requiring more intensive medical treatment are transferred to one of four hospitals. Among the victims treated by these hospitals are innocent children who have been gravely injured by the violence.

These heroic efforts may seem inconceivable considering the longstanding conflict between the two nations. However, these Israeli hospitals demonstrate that by welcoming Syrians in need humanity trumps politics and hostility. The impact of this generosity goes beyond that of medical treatment. As one doctor from the Ziv Medical Center stated, the compassion shown by the Israeli medical teams is "planting the seeds of peace."

In an area of the world that has been plagued by violence and destruction, the assistance provided by these hospitals offers a beacon of hope. It is my hope that the seeds of peace will grow and that future generations may live amongst each other, no longer in hostility, but in solidarity and friendship.

HONORING MAJOR TRENT COLESTOCK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army Major Trent Colestock, for his extraordinary dedication and service to the United States of America. Major Colestock will be moving on from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives to Fort Hood, Texas.

Army Congressional Liaisons provide an invaluable service to both the Military and Congress. They assist Congressional Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies,

actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congress.

Raised in Texas, Major Colestock commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery. He has served and commanded in a variety of assignments including service at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, the Pentagon, and in Iraq. Major Colestock was selected for the highly competitive Congressional Fellowship Program in 2011.

A few of Major Colestock's military awards include the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He has also earned both the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Master of Arts in Congressional Affairs from George Washington University.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Colestock as he proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career serving our great Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending Major Colestock for his dedicated service to our Country. It is my distinct pleasure to join with Trent's family, friends, peers, as they honor the accomplishments of his outstanding ongoing career.

REMEMBERING JEAN STARKWEATHER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jean Starkweather, who passed away in San Rafael, California, on November 23, four days shy of her 86th birthday. A lifelong advocate for the environment and a beloved leader in Marin County, Mrs. Starkweather will be remembered for her unyielding activism, her gentle spirit, and her steadfast sense of purpose related to protecting natural resources in Marin County.

Mrs. Starkweather was born in Seattle in 1929 and moved to San Rafael with her husband soon after graduating from Carleton College. She began her environmental advocacy in the early 1970s as chair of a local homeowners group, when she fought against developments on a hillside near Terra Linda. From there, she joined a litany of groups working to preserve natural spaces, including the Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Rafael, Audubon Canyon Ranch, and the Marin County Parks and Open Space commission.

Not only was Mrs. Starkweather involved with numerous conservation groups—she was a leader in practically every organization she joined. Throughout the decades, she helmed the San Francisco Bay Association, Marin Audubon Society, and Marin Conservation League (MCL), among others. Her involvement did not go unnoticed. She received the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Marin Green Award and the Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award from the MCL, and was recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for her contributions.

One area she was especially passionate about was protecting the San Rafael shoreline. Along with serving on MCL's Bayfront Committee, she conducted monthly bird counts, organized work parties to remove invasive plants, and tested water salinity. In 2003, San Rafael recognized the efforts of her and her husband, John, who passed away in 2001, with the creation of the Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline Park.

Mrs. Starkweather's persistent advocacy to preserve natural spaces, wildlife, and wetlands in the North Bay are worthy of our thanks and admiration. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her sons David, Stephen, and Tim.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH CHINA
SEA PEACE INITIATIVE OF TAI-
WANese PRESIDENT MA

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Taiwan enjoy deep and close relationship that covers areas including security, culture, and trade. Taiwan has played a significant role in promoting democracy in the East Asia and contributed to international development, humanitarian missions, and regional stability, such as in the South China Sea.

Earlier this year, Taiwan President Ma proposed the South China Sea Peace Initiative, calling on claimants in the region to resolve disputes peacefully through international laws, in particular the freedom of navigation and overflight, and consultations based on equality and reciprocity. I appreciate his leadership and efforts in promoting regional peace and stability.

On December 12, 2015, Taiwan's Minister of the Interior flew to the Taiping (Itu Aba) Island, which is the largest natural island in the Spratly islands and administered by ROC (Taiwan) government since 1946, and reiterated President Ma's South China Sea Peace Initiative. We encourage any efforts that contribute to lower regional tensions and hope all the parties involved will work together to maintain regional peace.

RECOGNIZING RON GAMBLE, VET-
ERAN AND OWNER OF VETERANS
UNITED CRAFT BREWERY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Gamble, a local Navy veteran and small business owner of Veterans United Craft Brewery, located in Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Gamble, along with a group of military veterans, started the local craft brewery in 2013. As a former Naval Flight Officer,

Mr. Gamble spent eight years active duty in the Navy and four years in the reserves.

Mr. Gamble first found his interest in brewing craft beer when his wife, Sheryl, presented him with a gift-wrapped box containing a bucket, a funnel, tubing, and various other odd-looking components. It was a simple, beer making kit. With a few, carefully-chosen ingredients, the possibilities for experimenting with this new home brewing hobby were endless.

Hobby turned to passion, and Mr. Gamble attended the renowned Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois for professional brewing. After several years managing brewhouse and cellar operations at multiple breweries in the New England area, Ron and Sheryl headed back home to sunny Jacksonville, Florida.

Veterans United Craft Brewery opened in August of 2014 with a goal to expand as a regional brewery. Today, Veterans United Craft Brewery is working to be known throughout the state of Florida as a quality craft brewery.

Veterans United is not only a veteran owned business, but a veteran operated business. Mr. Gamble believes it is important to employ local veterans looking for work but also finds that they are some of the best employees. Walking into the taproom you will find the walls covered in memorabilia connected to Mr. Gamble and his service, as well as history through the years of all branches of the military.

It is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Gamble and his contributions he has made to our Jacksonville community. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in this very special congressional salute to Navy Veteran and Jacksonville business owner, Ron Gamble.

REMEMBERING DENNIS REZENDES,
NATION'S FIRST HOSPICE AD-
MINISTRATOR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, our nation lost a giant in the world of health care. Dennis Rezendes, one of the original creators of hospice care, passed away in June at his home, surrounded by family and friends and with care from the program he helped establish.

The son of second-generation immigrant parents, Dennis was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and grew up during the Great Depression. Enlisting in the United States Air Force following his graduation from high school, Dennis served his country with honor and distinction for six years during which time, as a Grand Control Approach operator, he was involved in the U.S. side of the Berlin Airlift. Following his honorable discharge, he attended the University of Maine where he graduated in 1957 with honors and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Management. He went on to earn his Master of Government Administration degree from the Wharton School of Business and Finance and the Fels Institute of Local and State government at the University of Pennsylvania.

Among his many professional endeavors, Dennis served former New Haven Mayor Richard Lee as the Director of Administration and

Budget Officer. It was during his time with the Lee Administration that I first got to know Dennis. He played an integral role in the rejuvenation of the City of New Haven, helping to initiate innovative programs designed to improve the physical and social state of the city and its residents.

Dennis' true passion was realized in 1974 when he joined a small group of doctors and nurses to create the first program of hospice care in the United States along with the construction of the first American hospice facility located in Branford, Connecticut. Dennis went on to found the National Hospice Organization where he served as its first Executive Director. He played a critical leadership role in the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid legislation and private insurance payment for hospice care as well as the enactment of innovative health legislation in Connecticut related to hospice care that was replicated in many other states.

His pioneering efforts were recognized by Presidents Carter and Reagan, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Senators Edward "Ted" Kennedy and Robert Dole as well as many others. Dennis' last effort in the hospice movement was the co-creation of Community Hospice Care in Anaheim Hills, California which grew to become the second largest program of hospice care in the country. Retiring in 1994, it is an understatement to say that Dennis left an indelible mark on our nation's health care system.

Above all else, Dennis was a deeply devoted family man. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Beau; his daughter, Cheryl, and her husband Alan; his son Michael; his two stepsons Shane Hobart, and his wife Heather, and Seth, and his wife Nicole, as well as his six grandchildren August, Brook, Grace, Ethan, Eligh, and Jax.

Dennis Rezendes was an extraordinary man whose compassion and strong desire to make a difference changed the face of how we care for the terminally ill and their families in their last days. I consider myself fortunate to have known him and, like so many others, remain inspired by his vision and leadership. His is a legacy that will continue to touch the lives of those most in need for generations to come.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. AUDREY ANN
HOFFMAN LAWSON

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a civil rights activist and spiritual exemplar of the Houston community: Mrs. Audrey Ann Hoffman Lawson. With remarkable commitment, Mrs. Lawson dedicated her life to helping others, especially the young and the neediest.

Mrs. Lawson was born in St. Louis, Missouri on March 20, 1932. Mrs. Lawson met her husband, Reverend Bill Lawson, in St. Louis after they exchanged over 600 letters, wherein she affectionately became known as "Little Red." Married 61 years, Reverend and Mrs. Lawson reared one son and three daughters. They also founded the historic Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church as well as initiated and supported numerous programs to help the young

and disadvantaged. Mrs. Lawson served her community well as she promoted the power of faith and prayer. She will most assuredly be remembered for her leadership at the historic Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, helping to establish two charter schools, her support for the Ensemble Theater, and her immeasurable love for children.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lawson will be missed dearly by a host of family and friends. The family includes her husband, four children (Melanie, Cheryl, Eric, and Roxanne) as well as her grandchildren. Mrs. Lawson will be celebrated and memorialized in the Houston community as a faithful Christian lady, wife, mother, and community leader.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBRA
STREISAND IN RECEIVING THE
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREE-
DOM

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of California's 33rd Congressional District who is one of our nation's most gifted artists, and compassionate humanitarians. Barbra Joan Streisand, who was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

In the sixth decade of her career, Streisand has captivated generations of music and movie lovers, young and old alike. Through her creative work, Ms. Streisand has received countless honors including two Academy Awards, four Peabody Awards, eight Golden Globes, and the National Medal of Arts and Kennedy Center honors. Further, the three films she has directed to date have received 14 Oscar nominations. In 1984, Ms. Streisand became the first woman and only woman to win a Golden Globe for Best Director, which she won for the film *Yentl*.

A long time record setter as a recording artist, her 1963 album entitled *The Barbra Streisand Album* amassed six nominations for Album of the Year and five for Record of the Year—more than any other female artist in history. Since then she has won a total of 10 Grammys and released 52 gold albums, 31 platinum albums and 18 multi-platinum albums, topping the list of album sales by a female singer.

Yet Ms. Streisand's most enduring legacy is her tireless activism and generous philanthropic mission. Established in 1986, the Streisand Foundation has brought millions of dollars to ensure the legacy of numerous organizations promoting voter education, civil rights, higher education, veterans' assistance, and the preservation of our environment. Ms. Streisand's work on the crucial issues of climate change and healthcare have been exceptional, raising and contributing money to fight AIDS and heart disease, as exemplified by the recent naming of the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center at Cedar Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Streisand and her extraordinary achievements.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
GEORGE DAVIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of George Davis; a friend, an honorable leader, and a valued member of our Toledo community.

George Davis was born in Toledo, Ohio on July 11, 1927 to Polly Ann and George Davis. He grew up on Scott Street and from the age of 6 sold newspapers and did odd jobs to help his family in the Depression.

He was a Scott High School student when he went to work at Willys-Overland Motors at the age of 15. He retired in 1993 as a representative for Local 12, United Auto Workers. George was a veteran of the Army Air Corps.

George Davis became the first African-American appointed as a union steward and served as chairman of the Jeep unit. He sat on the Jeep executive committee and, when the former American Motors Corporation owned the Toledo plant, George was a leader in a UAW intracorporate council. When he retired, he was on the state board of UAW's Community Action Program.

George Davis served the Toledo Branch, NAACP, as the President, first vice president, chairman of committees and as a nuts-and-bolts member. In 2012 he was among the honorees recognized at an annual luncheon of the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio.

George Davis is survived by his sons, George III, Larry, Calvin and Norman; stepdaughters Helen and Patricia Webb; stepsons Walter Webb III and Robert Webb; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, as well as step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren. His wife of 25 years, Gladys, died in 2002.

George Davis was a great leader in all realms—his family, his church, his chosen profession as a union officer, his civil rights advocacy, and as a valued community leader whose opinion was sought and appreciated. He was blessed with an exceptional mind and an exceptional instinct. He knew how to read people, how to anticipate them, and how to counsel them. He had a gift for politics in the best sense. His goals were to serve people and to take their cause to those who could make a difference. And he did. He was an honorable leader, an indefatigable ally, and a courageous and unyielding advocate for people whose voices needed uplifting. He had a God given talent to accomplish good works, and he did.

George Davis led our community to a better place every day of his working life, which extended to the day of his homegoing. May God bless him and bring peace to his family and friends as they bear this enormous loss. And may George Davis' precious talents, good nature, and unyielding spirit carry his legacy forward and inspire others to emulate his life.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY WAYNE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kimberly Wayne of Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2015 Woman of Innovation at the eighth annual Women of Innovation Awards hosted by the Technology Association of Iowa. Overall, they honored 10 women with innovation awards. The award highlights today's extraordinary women and recognizes leaders in science, technology, engineering and math.

Kimberly was recognized as a Diversity Champion. She is a founder of Jewels Academy, a nonprofit that encourages young women to take part in science, technology, engineering, and math programs and uses Biblical principles of learning and character building. Kimberly's organization plays a key role in today's technology-driven society, especially for those children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to take part in this type of program.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Kimberly in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her for utilizing her talents to better both the community of Des Moines and the state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kimberly on receiving this esteemed designation and wishing her nothing but continued success.

HONORING AMICUS POLONIAE—
FRIEND OF POLONIA—VOLUN-
TEER FREE LEGAL CLINIC ON
THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amicus Poloniae—Friend of Polonia—Volunteer Free Legal Clinic on their 25th anniversary this October. On the third Saturday of each month since 1990, a large group of attorneys and other volunteers have gathered to meet and provide legal advice to individuals who would normally not be able to afford to hire an attorney.

In 1990 Edward Moskal, the president of Polish National Alliance, met with an attorney to discuss an idea of helping people access legal aid and representation to Chicago's Polish community. Since then, the Clinic has provided attorneys, interpreters, clerks and other volunteers for thousands of individuals seeking help. Today, Frank Spula, the current president of PNA, continues to support Amicus Poloniae.

The Clinic has also received continued support from the Polish National Alliance and the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation. CVLS has even recognized regular volunteers with a Distinguished Service Award.

Mark Dobrzycki is the current chief administrator who administers the monthly meetings. Preceding him was Marianna Lach, who ran the meetings from the conception of the clinic

until her passing in 2005. Attorneys Robert Groszek and Alexander Fiedotjew serve as the co-chairs. Alexander has volunteered with the Clinic since the start along with Zygmunt "Ziggy" Sokolnicki.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of a large portion of Polish constituents, I applaud Amicus Poloniae for their tireless work and dedication to the thousands of people in need. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating Amicus Poloniae on a successful past quarter-century.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RATIBU JACOBS SHADIDI

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ratibu Jacobs Shadidi, who passed away on December 10, 2015 at the age of 72.

Ratibu was an active member of the community who provided great service to the residents of the Inland Empire through his compassionate nature and commitment to promote the welfare of others. His service to the public began at an early age when he joined the United States Army in 1961. Later, upon moving to Riverside in the 1970s, he worked as a Field Representative for California State Senator Ruben Ayala and helped many in the community receive assistance from state agencies. He then operated a local firm and became known for publishing a directory of enterprises operated by women and minorities, which is distributed throughout California to promote small businesses.

A man of faith, Ratibu taught Sunday school at the Temple Missionary Baptist Church in San Bernardino. He is credited with inspiring several of his peers to become spiritual leaders and was known for seeing things in people that they couldn't see in themselves. Ratibu also is known in the community for forming the Inland Area Kwanzaa Group, and had hosted the annual Kwanzaa Karamu for more than two decades. In 2007, he published a memoir in which he describes how his belief system helped guide him through difficult times in his life.

For his contributions to the community and for his many other achievements, I would like to honor Ratibu Jacobs Shadidi and his family. While Ratibu will truly be missed by residents of the Inland Empire, his legacy will continue through all of those that knew him. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, former-California State Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter, and their three daughters.

RECOGNIZING AARON PEARSON, RETIRED OFFICER OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR BEING INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROTECTING THE SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aaron Pearson, retired officer of the

Springfield Police Department, for his dedication to protecting the Springfield community as well as his courage and perseverance after being injured in the line of duty.

On January 26, 2015, Officer Pearson was struck below the left eye with one of several rounds fired at him while responding to a request for backup. As a result of his injuries, doctors predicted that Aaron would likely never walk or talk again, but he never gave up. Aaron persevered through months of difficult rehab and less than five months later he made enough progress to throw the first pitch at the Springfield Cardinals game. His actions have shown an incredible example of courage in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. This November, he was awarded the Springfield Police Department Purple Heart for enduring this adversity.

Officer Pearson served his community with passion throughout his time with the Springfield Police Department. Before his retirement, Aaron's accomplishments exemplified this and those who worked with him in the line of duty had great respect for his professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron Pearson has worked tirelessly to protect his community and better those around him; I extend to him my deepest appreciation for his courage and dedication to ensuring the safety of the Springfield community. His efforts have not only contributed greatly to the Springfield community, but have made me proud to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEMA HELP AND EDUCATION FOR LOCAL PARTNERS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the FEMA Help and Education for Local Partners Act (FEMA HELP Act). The bill addresses concerns raised by states and local governments about the lack of comprehensive information about the various federal assistance programs available during and in the aftermath of a natural or man-made disaster. The bill creates a federal multi-agency team, led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to provide coordinated assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders in implementing a comprehensive approach to recovery and utilizing the full range of federal resources across agencies and programs.

The number and costs of federally declared disasters has been on the rise over the last 30 years. For example, total damages from 1972's Hurricane Agnes were \$2.1 billion, 1999's Hurricane Floyd caused \$6 billion in damage, while Hurricane Sandy resulted in \$65 billion in total damage. With the multiple disaster assistance programs offered by federal agencies in the aftermath of a disaster, the federal government needs to work together with state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders to provide the right types of aid on time to meet critical needs. At a recent Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management roundtable, a state representative suggested

that the federal government provide a "menu of resources" so that state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders and their residents can look for government resources in one place.

To address the current lack of coordination, the FEMA HELP Act is designed to require federal agencies to work together in a collaborative manner with state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders and provide them with guidance on federal assistance programs. To accomplish this aim, the bill directs FEMA to convene and manage multi-agency federal teams to work with and provide coordinated assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial leaders in implementing a comprehensive approach to recovery and utilizing the full range of federal funding resources across agencies and programs. The bill also requires FEMA's coordinating officers be trained in the range of applicable funding programs. The multi-agency federal team would include FEMA, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The bill also directs FEMA to create a clear and consistent set of guidelines and criteria for making and communicating decisions on funding eligibility and requirements. To retain institutional knowledge, the bill requires federal teams to minimize staff transitions and ensure there is adequate information transfer when staff transitions occur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise my opposition to H.R. 644 the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

In August, China devalued the renminbi by 4.4 percent which caused a drastic drop in the U.S. stock market. Currency manipulation has real life consequences and affects U.S. jobs and our economy. When China devalues their currency, U.S. exports rise in price and our workers and consumers suffer.

Considering the implications of currency manipulation, it is baffling that this bill does not have any Currency CVD provisions but instead inserts legally insignificant terms that are unenforceable. Rather than focus on protecting the American economy and jobs, Republicans have used H.R. 644 to weaken CVD provisions, eliminate text which prohibits imports made by forced or child labor and to insert partisan language to limit future discussions on climate change.

What started as a strong bill with wide bipartisan support has degenerated into a weak bill that does not shield our economy from the machinations of foreign governments. And for that Mr. Speaker, I must oppose this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH AND
PHYLLIS SHIELDS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kenneth and Phyllis Shields of Farragut, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

Kenneth and Phyllis' lifelong commitment to each other and their children truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Shields' that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL L. JACKSON

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Russell L. Jackson, Jr. for his many years of service to Anderson Township.

Russ Jackson has a long history of public service to Anderson Township, making invaluable contributions to its economic development throughout the last 20 years.

With over 37 years of business experience in the transportation industry, including leadership as a CEO and small business owner, Russ's input on the Anderson Township Board of Trustees has been invaluable. For five elected terms, Russ has used his business acumen to help steer Anderson Township towards economic success.

Due in part to Russ's leadership, Anderson Township has experienced sustained economic growth. More and more families are choosing to call Anderson Township home and more businesses are deciding to conduct their business in the township.

As admirable as the service Russ has provided to his community is the attitude with which he has served. Russ has worked tirelessly to improve Anderson Township over the years, devoted to the big picture and listening to the people he serves without exception.

I am grateful to have a fellow citizen in southwest Ohio as committed to service and progress as Russ Jackson is. Congratulations, Russ, on your 20 years of public service, and I wish you the best in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CAREPAYMENT AND
BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Beacon Health System in my district for their collaboration with CarePayment.

Beacon Health System continues to look for new, innovative ways to care for their patients.

They have partnered with CarePayment to provide a financing service that allows patients to spread out the payment of medical bills.

Oftentimes, patients face sticker shock when they discover what their out-of-pocket medical expenses will ultimately cost.

Some plans with high deductibles force patients to pay \$6,000 for an individual plan, or \$12,000 for a family plan before their health insurance kicks in to cover medical bills.

In order to provide more financial relief to patients in my district, Beacon Health and CarePayment are now providing a patient-friendly, financing program.

Everyone is eligible, regardless of income or employment status, and participating in this program has no impact on the patient's credit score.

The constituents I serve are concerned with rising medical costs.

In fact, many of them face difficult decisions when it comes to prioritizing their healthcare.

I am grateful for partnerships like the one between Beacon Health and CarePayment for providing patient driven solutions to Hoosiers.

I will keep working on bipartisan reforms to move in this direction.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015.

H.R. 4188 authorizes the United States Coast Guard, a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security, through fiscal year 2017 at \$8.7 billion per year. The bill includes provisions aimed at improving Coast Guard mission effectiveness, modernizing the Service's aging vessels and other assets, and reforming U.S. maritime transportation laws.

Since our Nation's earliest years, the Coast Guard has kept our ports and waterways secure, protected our shores and coastal communities, and responded to disasters and other emergencies. As Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I recognize and thank the men and women of the Coast Guard for their work, particularly their efforts at fulfilling the Coast Guard's critical homeland security missions. I am pleased to support legislation that reauthorizes the Coast Guard to ensure that it is positioned to effectively execute its eleven vital statutory homeland security and non-homeland security missions.

Modernizing the Coast Guard's aircraft, vessels, and other technology is critical to its operations. H.R. 4188 includes provisions that seek to improve the Service's acquisition process and improve the quality of assets delivered. The bill also requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop and present to Congress a strategic plan for the Coast Guard's long-term acquisition and manpower needs. This requirement will go a long way to enhancing both the DHS and Congress' understanding and prioritization of Coast Guard capability needs.

In addition, H.R. 4188 directs the Coast Guard to have a new manpower requirements plan that assesses all projected mission requirements for the next four fiscal years; the number of personnel available currently and projected; capability gaps caused by a lack of available personnel; and the steps the Coast Guard will take to address these gaps. In carrying out this requirement, it is important that the Coast Guard take into account the need to foster greater diversity at all levels of the organization. Consistently deploying broad recruitment efforts can only strengthen the Coast Guard.

Congress must continue to ensure these brave men and women have the necessary authorities and resources to accomplish all that they do on behalf of our Nation. H.R. 4188 is a good step in that direction, and I congratulate my colleagues in moving this important legislation forward.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW
MEKELBURG

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrew Mekelburg, Vice President of Government Affairs, upon his upcoming retirement after more than 36 years with Verizon and its preceding companies.

Andy began his career with Bell Atlantic and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of D.C. Originally from Needham, Massachusetts, Andy came to Washington to attend Georgetown University, where he majored in accounting and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He also earned a Master of Science in Special Studies of Telecommunications Policy from George Washington University.

At the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone (C&P) Company he supervised a team processing telephone bill payments. Andy next served as a Supervisor and then Manager in Corporate Accounting before becoming a Manager of External Affairs, State Regulatory, Financial and Accounting Matters at Bell Atlantic, the parent company of C&P.

From 1991 to 1992, Andy was a Brookings Institution Congressional Fellow assigned to serve in then-Congressman Amory "Amo" Houghton's (NY) office. During his fellowship, Andy founded a coalition of community leaders and worked with them to develop and implement economic development activities, including the Western New York Tourism Coalition, throughout the congressional district. He also initiated and founded HealthNet, one of the first Telemedicine networks in the nation, which was comprised of twelve rural and urban hospitals and a number of technology companies that worked together to use telecommunications technologies to solve health care challenges.

After his fellowship concluded, Andy served as Director of Infrastructure Initiatives for Bell Atlantic. In that capacity, he worked with the General Services Administration, the Vice President's National Performance Review, and the City of Hagerstown, Maryland, to establish the first Federal Telecommuting Center in the Washington area. He also continued to initiate

other Telemedicine and Distance Learning projects throughout the Bell Atlantic territory.

In 1995, Andy was promoted to Director of Federal Relations for Bell Atlantic and continued to work in Government Affairs after Bell Atlantic merged with NYNEX to become part of the new Bell Atlantic. A later merger with GTE created Verizon in 2000, and later mergers with MCI and the purchase of Vodafone's interest in VerizonWireless created the current Verizon where Andy is finishing his distinguished career.

He has also served as Chairman and in a leadership capacity with Signal Credit Union for many years. Andy has continued to focus on health care and telemedicine policy but also worked on labor, immigration, environment, and other issues. He is well known and admired for his expertise, effectiveness, friendliness, and generosity as well as his ability to forge effective coalitions with diverse memberships. Additionally, he is a proud member of "Red Sox Nation" and a long-time fan of the New England Patriots.

Andy is a long-time resident of Maryland and resides in Adamstown with his wife, Linda. Together they have two adult children, Cory and Elise. In retirement, Andy and Linda are looking forward to spending time at their homes in Massachusetts and Maryland.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. VIRGINIA VEAL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Ms. Virginia Inez Bates Veal on December 17, 2015. Born on December 17, 1915, Ms. Veal has called Jacksonville, Florida home since her family moved from Bartow, Florida in 1918 when she was just three years old.

Virginia's life reads right out of the pages of a Jacksonville history book. As a young girl, she survived the Spanish Flu Epidemic that ran rampant through Florida in 1918. Her family endured the difficulties of the Great Depression in the late 1920's. And in 1934 Virginia graduated from Jacksonville's second oldest high school, and also my alma mater, Robert E. Lee High School.

After graduation, Virginia began working at Furchgott's, a local department store, in the Ladies Fine Wear section. After a 20 year career she retired as the Department Manager. During this time, Virginia raised two sons, Lamar Jr. and Lewis, in Jacksonville's well known preservation area of Murray Hill. Her two sons, also graduates of Robert E. Lee High School, went on to college and graduated from the University of Florida.

Virginia was married for almost 58 years to Mr. Prentice Veal. Mr. Veal managed and owned several dry cleaning plants around Jacksonville and Orange Park, Florida. Virginia today still enjoys cooking, gardening, visiting with family and friends, and is very active in her ladies' circle and Sunday school class at Riverside Park United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in wishing Jacksonville native, Ms. Virginia Veal, a very special happy 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JORDAN SMITH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harlan County's own Jordan Smith for winning Season 9 of The Voice, NBC's nationwide vocal competition.

Jordan's superior talent impressed all four superstar judges during the blind auditions, igniting a competition for Jordan's team choice. From the moment the world heard Jordan's vocal debut, his powerful gift was undeniable. However, it was in the conversations following his performance that Jordan shared insight to his outstanding character, his determination and humility, as well as his faith in God. His courage and boldness has inspired people across the country, and especially in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. Coach Adam Levine said it best, noting Jordan as "the most important person that's ever been on this show."

Jordan has received applause and the utmost praise from some of the most talented, award-winning artists across the nation, affirming that his vocal gymnastics have impressed the best of the best artists. Coach Pharrell Williams even expressed to Jordan, "God has signed your voice." Jordan quickly became more than a singer in a televised competition, but arose as a leader and inspiration during a critical time in our nation. The celebration of Jordan's personal victory comes during a time when hope is desperately needed in his hometown and across the country. With the looming threat of terrorism at an all-time high and as Jordan's hometown region suffers from devastating job losses in the coal industry, he chose encouraging songs of hope and faith to transcend shared feelings of despair and fear. Additionally, Jordan's performances shined a spotlight on the compassionate and talented people of Harlan County, evoking much-needed positive news stories about our region.

It is his courage of conviction that makes Jordan so much more than a vocalist on stage. He is a leader of hope and faith for our nation and the people of Eastern Kentucky are deeply proud of his accomplishments thus far.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Jordan Smith on his monumental win on The Voice. I look forward to following the career of another talented artist from Eastern Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO JIM AND JOLENE NELSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim and Jolene Nelson of Anita, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 20, 1960, at the Lutheran Church in Greenfield, Iowa.

Jim and Jolene's lifelong commitment to each other, their daughter, Janet, and their

granddaughter, Emily, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Nelsons that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

FIRST RESPONDERS PASSPORT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3750, the "First Responders Passport Act of 2015."

I thank Representative DARRELL ISSA and the House Foreign Affairs Committee Leadership, Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for shepherding this legislation along.

This bill amends the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 to waive passport fees for an individual who has contracted with the U.S. government, including a volunteer, to aid a foreign country suffering from a qualifying natural disaster.

As the African proverb goes, "in moments of crisis, the wise build bridges—" this is what our first responders do: they build bridges for those caught in natural disasters.

In today's world fraught with natural disasters from Storm Desert that our friends in the U.K. are facing to cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes across the globe, more than ever, it is very important that we build bridges by equipping our first responders dedicated to aiding countries across the globe suffering from natural disasters.

According to scientists, the first half of this decade featured deadly climate-related disasters, among them the great floods in Thailand in 2011, Hurricane Sandy in the United States in 2012, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013.

Moreover, the year 2014 was the earth's warmest in 134 years of recorded history, and 2015 could well turn out to be even hotter.

According to some scientists, it is difficult to not draw a nexus between climate change and some of the natural disasters we have suffered on planet earth in this decade alone.

In the end, climate related and natural disasters have cost the world a lot in lives as well as economically.

In fact, according to the World Meteorological Organization, 1,300 climate-related natural disasters have been recorded in Africa between 1970 to 2012.

In this time frame, these natural disasters in Africa have caused the loss of 700,000 lives and caused economic damage worth U.S. \$26 billion.

Experts inform us that in 2012 there were 99 natural disasters in Africa—twice the long-term average.

The passage of H.R. 3750 is very timely, especially in light of recent talks in Le Bourget, France at the Conference of Parties (COP 21), with the objective of achieving a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world.

In other words, the conveners at COP 21 seek to protect our precious earth, address the nexus between our protection of precious earth to some of the natural disasters we are suffering and reach a consensus on how we leave our children their inheritance of the earth better than we found it.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of first responders heed the call during natural disasters to protect and serve the people of planet earth who find themselves at the mercy of mother-nature during natural disasters.

I hold in high regard the service of our first responders: firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency response technicians, nurses, emergency room doctors, and the dozens of other professionals and volunteers who are the ultimate public servants.

From Katrina to earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal, time and time again, first responders have put their lives and comfort on the line in order to rescue survivors, care for those in need, and prevent the further loss of life.

H.R. 3750 is very critical because it aims to reduce personal costs borne by first responders—people who help others in their time of need.

According to the Global Increase in Climate-Related Disasters, we face more frequent floods, storms, heat waves, and droughts which are connected to greater extremes in temperatures and rainfall.

Moreover, recent warnings by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, inform us that the global temperature is already halfway to the “two degree warming” threshold for limiting catastrophic climatic impacts.

As the evidence shows, unequivocally, the dedication of first responders is an integral part of bringing relief to parts of the world where natural disasters have struck.

I support this legislation and hope that as we move forward, we continue to engage in dialogue about the fact that:

Climate impacts are not just concerns for the distant future, but are already being felt by us and our children;

All countries, rich and poor are casualties of natural disaster, but the death toll is higher among the poor who are more likely to live in harm's way, such as in flood-prone areas; and

It is important to create structures that facilitate the swift deployment of first responders to people in dire need of disaster relief.

**HONORING MS. JENNIFER SOLDATI
ON THE OCCASION OF HER
RETIREMENT FROM GREATER
SOMERSWORTH CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AFTER NINE AND A
HALF YEARS AS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Soldati on her retirement after more than nine years as Executive Director of the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Throughout her time at the Chamber, Ms. Soldati fought for the interests of both large

and small businesses, and focused on promoting growth throughout the region. During her tenure with the City Council, she played a critical role in completing multiple renovation projects in downtown Somersworth, and it's clear that her knowledge, compassion and leadership will be greatly missed.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Jennifer Soldati on her retirement, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

**HONORING FALLEN CHICAGO
FIREFIGHTER DANIEL CAPUANO**

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chicago Firefighter Daniel Capuano, who tragically lost his life while battling a blaze on Chicago's South Side on December 14.

Daniel Capuano began his career as a firefighter and paramedic in Lemont, Illinois, in 1997. During his time in Lemont he helped save the life of a caddy who had a heart attack while working at the Cog Hill Golf Course. In 2001, Capuano joined the Chicago Fire Department where he served for 15 years. Throughout his career, he was known for going above and beyond the call of duty. He was always working on making himself a better firefighter, including constantly taking outside classes to learn the latest and most effective firefighting techniques. Capuano was known for his commitment to safety and skill as a firefighter as he served as a training supervisor, ensuring that trainees navigated controlled burns safely.

A member of Tower Ladder 34, Daniel Capuano leaves behind his wife Julie—a Chicago Public Schools teacher—and three children, Amanda, Andrew, and Nick. Capuano was known for being a loving father who enjoyed watching his children play hockey. He was a constant presence at their games, only missing when he was at work. Capuano also assisted his children's team by helping out as the club manager and maintained a training building.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chicago Firefighter Daniel Capuano. A dedicated father, husband and firefighter, he was an example of the finest that Chicago has to offer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life of Daniel Capuano and extending condolences to his family.

**CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644,
TRADE FACILITATION AND
TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF
2015**

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act. This bill is an improvement on the previous version that I opposed in June.

For the past several years I have had many conversations with the people of Northwest Oregon about growing jobs and increasing exports. I've heard from workers, business owners, environmentalists, and others about the importance of enforcing and strengthening our existing trade laws and agreements. Strong trade facilitation and enforcement will keep other nations accountable for the labor and environmental standards we set and give the United States the ability to take swift action against those who seek to engage in unscrupulous trade practices.

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act earned my support because it includes provisions that are important for my constituents and for employers in Oregon, and because it provides resources and tools to take action against trade cheats.

This bill incorporates the ENFORCE Act to require quick action on allegations of evasion of duties, dumping, and improper subsidies. A special enforcement fund would provide up to \$30 million each year dedicated to enforcing trade agreements and making sure trading partners meet their commitments.

It permanently establishes the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center to pursue across-agency enforcement of domestic trade rights and trade laws. There are also strong provisions to put an end to importation of products made by child and forced labor.

Oregon receives funding through the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program to help small businesses find new markets for their products and boost job growth. This legislation reauthorizes STEP through 2020 and increases its funding to expand small business exports.

The Pacific Northwest is known for its great outdoors and recreational opportunities in the mountains, forests, beaches, rivers, and on the coast. Recreational outdoor businesses thrive in our region, marketing outdoorwear and active wear to sporting enthusiasts around the world. This legislation includes provisions that will make these products more competitive and reverse a scheduled increase in tariffs for small and medium-sized outdoor industry businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a bipartisan compromise. On the heels of the historic Paris Climate Agreement, our nation will continue to lead the world in addressing climate change; the language in this legislation will not change that.

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act is a step forward and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that our nation has strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure our employers and workers can compete on a level playing field in the global economy.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE ROST

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Christine Rost of Hamburg, Iowa, for being selected to serve on the 2015–16 Region 17 4-H Youth Leadership Council. Region 17 includes Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, and

Pottawattamie counties. Christine is a student at Farragut High School and is an active member of the Washington PEP 4-H and the Fremont County 4-H Council.

The purpose of the Region 17 4-H Youth leadership Council is to provide leadership development experience to 4-H and council members. The council works to identify needs, share ideas, and develop a plan of action to help assist the area within Region 17. It is because of leaders like Christine that the 4-H program is so successful in teaching its members valuable life skills that will prepare them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Christine for being selected to represent 4-H youth throughout southwest Iowa. It is Iowans like Christine that make me proud to represent our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Christine for this outstanding achievement and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today, December 17, 2015, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 703.

If I had been present, I would have supported H.R. 2029, the tax extenders portion of the fiscal year 2016 omnibus spending legislation.

I would have voted in favor of this legislation because it includes the extension of critical tax provisions that would help millions of American workers, students, families, and businesses. Critically, the bill makes permanent three key refundable tax credits: the child tax credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit. Combined, these tax credits will help 24 million working families. Additionally, it includes an extension of the research and development tax credit, a vital component of Massachusetts's innovation economy.

However this bill is far from perfect, and I am disappointed that Congress has shunned its obligation to ensure these cuts are offset. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues in the months ahead to enact comprehensive reform that focuses on job creation and the growth of our middle class.

TRIBUTE TO EZRA SCHWARTZ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to take a moment to remember Ezra Schwartz who, at only eighteen, was taken from us all too soon when he was killed just before the Thanksgiving holiday while volunteering in the West Bank. Ezra's grandparents, Mark and Heni Schwartz, have long been involved in New Haven's Jewish community and I am heartbroken for their loss.

Ezra was an extraordinary young man who had his whole life still ahead of him. Memories shared from those from every walk of his life shared a common theme—Ezra's kind heart, generous nature, and passion for making a difference. His vivacious character was contagious. He was dedicated to his family and his community, always striving to enrich the lives of others.

Ezra was an accomplished young man who loved teaching others. His father, Ari, recently recounted the many ways in which he helped his younger siblings as well as his time at New Hampshire's Camp Yavneh last summer, where he won an award for leading campers in the annual sing-off. Ezra's choice to join a yeshiva program, combining service with learning, did not surprise anyone who knew him.

Spending a "gap year" between high school and college studying at an Israeli yeshiva, Ezra was building a deeper connection to his ethnic and religious roots as well as volunteering his time to make a difference in the lives of others. His was a mission of compassion and humanitarianism and he was killed simply because he was Jewish.

Though we may never fully understand why Ezra was taken so soon, his family and friends can take comfort in the full life that he led while he was here. It is an honor and privilege for me to stand today to pay tribute to Ezra Schwartz and his extraordinary young life. I extend my deepest sympathies to his parents, Ari and Ruth; his siblings, Mollie, Hillel, Elon, and Avi; his grandparents, Mark and Heni; as well as his many family and friends at this most difficult time. Well known for his generosity and kind spirit, Ezra will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known him and will serve as an inspiration to others to make a difference in this world.

TRIBUTE TO LORI STONE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Lori Stone will be retiring from the March Joint Powers Authority after a distinguished career that spanned over 20 years.

Lori began working with the March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in 1994 after stepping forward to utilize her local knowledge of military base reuse. She has served as the Executive Director of the JPA since being promoted in 2006. In addition to the 365-acre airport, the JPA oversaw the development of the 1,200-acre Meridian Business Park and over 600 acres of land for future development. Lori described her early days with JPA as a "learn as you go" process because of the lack of precedent with local, state, and federal agencies. Over the years, Lori has forged relationships with the Air Force, Army, Federal Aviation Administration, Navy, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist in furthering the goals of the JPA, March Air Reserve Base, and the Inland Empire region.

Lori has amassed a large and impressive list of accomplishments while working as Ex-

ecutive Director of the JPA. She successfully advocated for the passage of federal legislation to authorize a land swap between the Army, Navy and JPA allowing for the redevelopment of an area of March Air Reserve Base to be more comprehensive. Lori helped expand the local foreign trade zone outside of the JPA boundaries to help enhance the region's economic tools. Additionally, Lori spearheaded the US Vets project, securing investments of over \$10 million and locating 7.5 acres for the project. The undertaking will serve more than 100 homeless veterans and their families.

In light of all that Lori has done for the Riverside County community and the March Joint Powers Authority, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Lori's tireless passion for our military and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Lori on the celebration of her retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,798,211,680,628.12. We've added \$8,171,334,631,715.04 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG SACKETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Craig Sackett, of Menlo, Iowa, for earning the American FFA Degree. Craig was recently awarded the degree at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on October 31st. Craig was a member of the Nodaway Valley FFA Organization and is the son of Jeff and Laurie Sackett.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Craig had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field, investing that money into business, participating in community service, and displaying a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement. Craig spent four years in high school working towards this ultimate goal, and through his hard work and determination he was able to achieve it.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Craig in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Craig on receiving this degree and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF
THE "WORLD WAR II 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND WORLD PEACE EVENT"

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and honor the "World War II 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event." The ceremony, which took place on November 7, 2015, was a City of Houston Citizenship Month event that was organized by the Southern News Group and International Trade Center. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 people viewed the grand opening ceremony at Minute Maid Park.

The event sought to honor our veterans, mark the anniversary of World War II, and celebrate the diversity of Houston. Specifically, it aimed to convey the message that: "America means freedom like no other country on Earth." The ceremony also included the awarding of medals to World War II veterans in attendance, in honor of their courageous service, and the recognition of U.S. and Chinese pilots who fought in China during World War II for the Allies.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the "WWII 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event" wonderfully celebrated the vibrancy and diversity of the Houston community. Moreover, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all at the International Trade Center and the Southern News Group, under the leadership of its Chairman Wea Lee, for their hard work in producing this important event. I look forward to future enriching events and efforts.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN M. HUDSON

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the extraordinary public service of Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Vermont Public Service Board for 39 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Vermont Public Service Board is Vermont's utility regulatory commission, a quasi-judicial board that supervises Vermont's public utilities: electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and statewide energy efficiency. The Board regulates their rates, quality of service, siting, and financial management. It reviews the environmental and economic impacts of proposals to purchase energy supply or build new energy facilities—including conventional sources and a growing

number of renewable energy plants in an increasingly complex regulatory field. The process the Board administers often requires public hearings, evidentiary hearings, and other forms of inquiry and investigation to ensure that high-quality service is provided by the utilities at rates that are just and reasonable. In short, the Vermont Public Service Board plays a crucial role in the lives of Vermonters. It is a role that it could not have hoped to play well without the sustained energy and focus that Sue Hudson has brought to so many facets of the Board's work.

Sue Hudson has had a remarkable and steady career at the Public Service Board. Her service has spanned the terms of six Vermont governors and 24 different Board members. She kept the wheels of regulation aligned and in good working order through major transitions in the utility industry and the Board structure. Through all of these changes, Sue Hudson remained the public face of the Board to countless citizens, developers, and utility personnel as they visited the Clerk's office to make filings, ask questions, and review documents. While many of the cases she processed were highly contested and involved significant public controversy, Sue Hudson's calm demeanor, fair disposition, and credibility as a Vermonter through and through have been a major asset to the Public Service Board in the performance of its responsibilities.

Sue Hudson is a longtime resident of Hardwick, Vermont, where she is a fully involved member of the community. Her husband, Dan Hudson, looks forward to spending more time with her. She has two wonderful daughters and two grandchildren. As busy as Sue Hudson has been helping Vermonters to navigate the regulatory process, she is also an avid and accomplished golfer and tennis player. And she has always found time to be very involved with her church community.

Through her professionalism and dedication, Sue Hudson has made a significant contribution to civic life in Vermont. On behalf of all Vermonters, I ask the House of Representatives to acknowledge Sue Hudson and her remarkable service to the people of the Green Mountain State.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SONAL SHAH

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Sonal Shah of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, who peacefully passed away in November after a courageous fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Her life and advocacy were an inspiration. Undeterred by her diagnosis, Sonal lived every day to the fullest and her personal story was a profile in courage.

I was privileged to know Sonal through her work on raising awareness about ALS and her fight for a cure. She would come to Washington to have meetings on Capitol Hill where she would tell her story, share the latest research and inform policy makers of what she and the ALS community needed in funding for public research and to spur private investment. It was during that time I came to know

her wonderful family, including her husband and daughter, who have always been by her side.

Sonal worked tirelessly. She passionately made her case and I was proud to work with her on legislation that will make a positive difference in the lives of many. And that was what was so remarkable about Sonal's fight. Even the most groundbreaking of discoveries would likely have come too late to assist Sonal in her own struggle but she remained committed against the scourge of this disease so that others might have hope. She was a hero in the ALS community and the turnout of love and support at awareness events, at the celebration of her heartfelt book and at laps around the Somerset ball field demonstrated people were compelled by her story.

The fight against this terrible disease was made stronger by having Sonal lead it. She will be missed greatly. I know I will work in Washington with renewed vigor for this cause and will always remember Sonal's strength as we continue to work against ALS.

While we have lost a beloved wife, mother, writer, advocate and friend, let us remember her spirit and perseverance in our own personal struggles and let her determination forever be a source of strength for us all.

TRIBUTE TO TED AND JUDY
KENKEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ted and Judy Kenkel of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1955.

Ted and Judy's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Danny, Randy, Jan, and Kelly, their grandchildren, and their great-grandsons, Dominik and Declan, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Kenkel family that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN
SPIELBERG IN RECEIVING THE
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the hardworking, kind, and exceptionally creative people of California's 33rd District. I would like to recognize the brilliant work of one of my fantastic constituents: Steven Allan Spielberg, who was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

His films are adored and cherished by billions around the world. With directorial, production and writing credits for incredible films

such as *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *ET*, *Poltergeist*, *Goonies*, the *Color Purple*, *Schindler's List*, *Amistad*, *Lincoln*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *Jurassic Park* as well as the *Indiana Jones* movies, it is not surprising that Mr. Spielberg is the recipient of three Oscars, three Golden Globes, four Emmy Awards, and countless other awards and a myriad of prestigious nominations. He is the recipient of the AFI Lifetime Achievement Award and has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany and as well as an honorary Knight Commanders of the Order of the British Empire for this work, amongst many other international honors. He is co-founder of Dreamworks Studios and Amblin Entertainment.

I believe in no uncertain terms, that Mr. Spielberg is our generations' most significant creator in the field of film. He understands the importance cinematography has on our society—especially on our children. That is why I commend his efforts in helping the National Boy Scouts of America develop a merit badge in cinematography. Mr. Spielberg has also taken his art and turned it into a passion for service, establishing the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History at the University of Southern California to record testimonies of Holocaust survivors so that their stories may never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, for his timeless cinematographic accomplishments transforming modern film, our culture, and our history, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Steven A. Spielberg.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 697, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 696, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 695, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 694, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

HONORING THE LATE CHARLES NEWTON "NEWT" SCHENCK FOR HIS INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, community leaders and arts advocates from across the City of New Haven gathered to pay tribute to the late Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck and honor his legacy with the dedication of a plaque at the Audubon Arts Center in the heart of the City's Arts District. I am proud to take a moment today to stand and join the City and its arts community in honoring Newt for his outstanding contributions.

Today, the City of New Haven enjoys a thriving, vibrant arts community with local the-

aters, symphonies, and music education organizations as well as art studios and performance spaces providing learning and entertainment opportunities for all ages. At the epicenter of it all is the Audubon Arts District—the culmination of Newt Schenck's visionary leadership to breathe new life into a once-beleaguered area of downtown New Haven.

An attorney at Wiggin & Dana, Newt served on the City's Development Commission and was a dedicated patron of the arts. He helped found the Long Wharf Theater and led the City's Arts Council for many years. Newt understood the importance of balancing revitalization with preservation and it was through this paradigm that he worked to formulate and implement a master plan for what would become the Audubon Arts District.

For the better part of two decades, Newt worked to bring together the elements of his vision. He wanted the arts center to be a group of arts institutions that work together, where the whole is greater than its parts. He knew it should be mixed use with arts organizations, businesses, and residential housing. Older buildings would be preserved and repurposed and commercial development would return money to the arts.

Slowly but surely that vision became a reality. Today, Audubon is not only home to the Arts Council, but to Educational Center for the Arts, the Neighborhood Music School, the New Haven Ballet, and Creative Arts Workshop, as well as local businesses like Audubon Strings, the Foundry Music Company, the Silk Road Art Gallery, and Connecticut Public Radio. The plaza, which features beautiful sculptures designed by local artists, also has its own "walk of fame" with stars honoring New Haven arts leaders.

The plaque, designed and installed by Westville sculptor Gar Waterman, is a special tribute to Newt's legacy. Below a beautiful relief of a tree, it reads: "In honor of Charles Newton Schenck III, Attorney at Wiggin & Dana who, in collaboration with the City of New Haven, with vision and persistence led the Arts Council in its development of the Audubon Arts Center 1965 to 1990."

Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck, through his work with the Arts Council and the development of the Audubon Arts District, changed the face of our community and planted the seeds for the New Haven arts community that flourishes as a whole today. I am honored to join the City of New Haven and the New Haven Arts Council in paying tribute to his invaluable contributions to our community and in extending my heartfelt thanks to his wife, Ann, for sharing him with us for so many years. The Audubon Arts District is a haven for artists of all mediums, of all ages, and of all talents—a legacy that will inspire the beauty and magic of the arts for generations to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LYNDAL SCRANTON, SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER SPORTS JOURNALIST, AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable 36-year career of

Springfield News-Leader sports journalist Lyndal Scranton, and congratulate him on his retirement.

Scranton got his start as the Sports Editor of Central High School's student paper, which transitioned to a position at the Springfield News-Leader when he was teenager in the fall of 1979. Ever since, he has written on area sporting events at every level, including the 1985 Bass Pro Tournament of Champions and Jack Nicklaus' hitting golf balls at the 'Top of the Rock' golf course.

Namely though, he has been a staple of Missouri State University (MSU) Sports since the late 1980s and has cemented himself in MSU sports history. Scranton has written about MSU basketball since the team first joined the Missouri Valley Conference, through the 1999 Bears' run to the Sweet 16, and up to present day with Coach Paul Lusk. His coverage of MSU football has now followed five head coaches' tenures, spanning from Jesse Branch to Dave Steckel. In his reporting on the MSU baseball team, he covered their mid-1990s NCAA tournament appearances, their College World Series contention in 2003, and their impressive 2015 season when the team fell just short of another trip to Omaha.

Throughout his career, Scranton built a reputation as being an honest and to-the-point writer. Those who worked with him often remark that his genuine care for people and unwillingness to take cheap shots make him a rare gem from a bygone era of impartial journalism. He has even been a huge help to Legendary Sportscaster Art Hains. If Art ever needs to call for an expert opinion on horse racing, auto racing dating back to Larry Phillips at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds Track, or the NBA, Lyndal is Art's go-to man.

All of his peers know—Hains included—that despite his making his living as a sports journalist, Scranton was first and foremost a sports fan. He is an avid supporter of the St. Louis Cardinals, the L.A. Lakers, loves to bowl, and also enjoys watching horse races at Oaklawn—that's not to mention that he makes some of the best bar-b-que in the Ozarks.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I extend my appreciation to him for his dedication to sports journalism in our community and wish him the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CATHIE ALFF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cathie Alff of Anita, Iowa, for being selected as a 2015 Hospital Hero by the Iowa Hospital Association. Cathie was one of 10 Iowans recognized with this honor.

As a certified nurse's aide in the Cass County Health System, Cathie is known for her compassionate and caring treatment for each and every one of her patients. She understands that the relationships she builds with them is the most important aspect of her job. Her number one priority is ensuring their quality care and treatment throughout their entire stay.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Cathie for receiving this prestigious 2015 Hospital Hero award.

It is lowans like Cathie that make me proud to represent our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Cathie for receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PIKEVILLE
PANTHERS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Chris McNamee and the Pikeville Panthers High School Football team for winning the 2015 Kentucky High School Athletic Association 1A Class State Championship title for the first time since winning three straight from 1987 to 1989.

On December 3, 2015 at Western Kentucky University in the Houchens Stadium, the Pikeville Panthers put their skill and heart to the test against the Beechwood Tigers, a high school team from Northern Kentucky with a legacy steeped in state titles. The two teams battled hard for each inch on the field with a tied score of 21-all leading into the final quarter, proving they both deserved to compete for state bragging rights. With victory in sight, the Panthers battled back for three remarkable touchdowns in the last nine minutes of the game. The final score was 42 to 28, giving Coach McNamee his first Championship as the Panthers' coach.

The Panthers' win brought some much-needed celebration back to the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky, where we've lost more than 9,000 coal mining jobs since 2009. These young men have undoubtedly seen the impact first hand, as many of them have fathers or other family members who have recently been laid off from the coal mines. Through sheer determination and hard work, they proved that we can rise above our challenges and daunting circumstances to bring hope and victory back to the mountains.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach McNamee and the Pikeville Panthers for bringing the highly coveted state title back home to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. I wish them all the best of luck in the years to come.

COMMENDING NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY ON THE OPENING
OF ITS CENTER FOR THE AD-
VANCEMENT OF VETERANS AND
SERVICE MEMBERS (CAVS)

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when employment rates for many student veterans continue to lag behind those of their civilian peers, I rise today to commend Northeastern University for launching a new center aimed at tackling this urgent challenge head on. Northeastern's new Center for the Advancement of Veterans and Service Mem-

bers—or "CAVS" for short—offers a wealth of services and benefits to returned service members, including mentorship opportunities and assistance with the transition from military to civilian life.

Student veterans at Northeastern benefit from the university's renowned experiential learning infrastructure through specialized cooperative education placements within a global network of 3,000 employers. And with CAVS now coming online, these students can also access tailored experiential learning programs and career resources that leverage their unique individual competencies and prior military experience.

Mr. Speaker, despite a slowly improving unemployment rate, veterans nationwide consistently face greater barriers to employment than non-veterans. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, half of all veterans in the United States will face a period of unemployment after transitioning from military service—particularly younger veterans, with those aged 18–24 facing an unemployment rate double that of civilian peers. In a report by Prudential prepared in conjunction with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, 69 percent of veterans list finding a job as a civilian as their greatest challenge after service.

That's why I am so pleased to see that Northeastern's new center expands the university's focus on student veteran employability by focusing on the education and career advancement of returning service members. It's clear that Northeastern recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of service members and is committed to providing student veterans with an experiential education that allows them to leverage their unique leadership skills for their future careers.

Mr. Speaker, this work is not new for Northeastern. In fact, the university has a proud, 100-year legacy of educating veterans and service members. Today, Northeastern ranks among the top 10 private, non-profit, research universities for attracting post-9/11 G.I. Bill recipients. And the university also signed a first-of-its-kind agreement earlier this year to offer accelerated master's degrees in homeland security to members of the National Guard.

Northeastern is building on its strong track record of educating and preparing student veterans for the future: Northeastern's student veteran graduation rate is 82.6 percent, well above the national average of 51 percent. Through its Institute for Military Leadership in the Workforce, Northeastern's new veterans center will serve all aspects of veterans' integration into academia and will link students to strategic partners in the private sector. Based in Boston, the center's reach and impact will extend worldwide to veterans within Northeastern's Global Network.

Mr. Speaker, today there are some 600 student veterans and active duty personnel currently receiving benefits and support at Northeastern, a population that is expected to continue to grow in the wake of the opening of the center. The university's commitment to veterans now totals some \$4 million, including its assistance through the federal Yellow Ribbon Program, the support and operation of the new center, and the establishment of a new scholarship program to aid veterans with costs not otherwise provided for through the government's benefits.

Additionally, Northeastern has more than 90 ongoing research projects funded by the De-

partment of Defense, two Centers of Excellence funded by the Department of Homeland Security, and a \$15 million state-of-the-art research institute that focuses on sensitive problems of national security. This past September, the university signed a \$20 million cooperation agreement with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory to continue conducting critical defense research.

Mr. Speaker, Northeastern's unique military-aligned ecosystem provides veterans with more opportunities to explore different career paths, to learn how to better translate skills for the civilian job market, and to build relationships among the community. I commend Northeastern, under the visionary leadership of President Joseph Aoun, for undertaking this important work.

Northeastern's attention to veteran education and transitional needs is deeply appreciated. I urge all of my colleagues to take the time to review this important effort.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM
TAX HIKES ACT OF 2015

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong concerns for the "Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015." I want to commend Ranking Member LEVIN and the Democratic leadership for their strong, unwavering support for hard-working families across our country during these difficult negotiations for a comprehensive tax extenders package. While I support a strong tax policy that provides certainty to individuals and American businesses, I have a number of concerns with respect to the final provisions of the package and the ultimate cost of the bill.

Our nation's tax code should continue to evolve in order to reflect and meet the challenges facing modern businesses. It should also create opportunities for growth, without undermining critical social programs that benefit all Americans.

This package includes several provisions I strongly support, including permanent expansions of the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and the American opportunity tax credit. The package also provides a two-year moratorium on the medical device tax and extends the work opportunity tax credit to help employers that hire Americans who have faced significant barriers to employment. This bill also provides incentives to individuals for charitable contributions and for businesses to continue to invest in critical research and development.

However as with most legislation, these tax cuts and extenders have a huge price tag. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that the provisions would reduce net revenues, and thereby increase deficits, by a total of \$622 billion over 10 years. I am deeply concerned that passing this tax extenders package without offsetting its cost would greatly undermine our ability to make key discretionary investments in the future that would hinder job creation, and lessen opportunities that make the American dream possible for millions of families across our great nation.

We know that every dollar in lost revenue must be made up somewhere else in the budget. And far too often, my Republican colleagues have sought to do this by reducing spending in critically important domestic spending programs such as infrastructure development, education, social security, and increased healthcare access.

As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to pass sensible and pragmatic legislation that not only aids industry, but also grows the paychecks of hard-working families and invests in the future of our children. We must weigh this tax extenders package against its long-term impact on Congress' ability to help businesses create jobs and opportunities, grow our economy, invest in our aging infrastructure, strengthen our national security, and provide our senior citizens with the opportunity to retire with dignity. The American people deserve a more balanced bill that offsets its cost, and helps both individuals and businesses equitably across the board.

I urge my colleagues to review this legislation carefully, with a focus on our nation's future.

A NEW APPROACH TO
CYBERSECURITY

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about an effort by Unisys, a global technology company with a presence in my district, aimed at significantly lowering the cyber risks being faced by our citizens and our government. Cyber-attacks are increasing and leaders in government and industry are seeking new approaches to protect critical data. One new ap-

proach to security, micro-segmentation, was described in detail by Unisys Vice President Tom Patterson at the 2nd Annual Cyber Education Summit held at Augusta University on October 14–15, 2015. I would like to submit a short excerpt of Mr. Patterson's remarks as it outlines the core of this important initiative.

Our original approach to cybersecurity is no longer working. Recently, we have watched as companies, governments, and institutions report system breaches on a nearly weekly basis. It is clear that core assumptions and approaches that defined our old security models are failing.

We rely on computing and communications systems that are critical to our financial systems, health care providers, schools, governments, and business enterprises. It's not just our computers that are at risk. Increasingly, cyber-attacks jeopardize careers, wallets, companies, infrastructure, and even lives. Adversaries boldly wield the power to access personal and corporate data online and take control of systems throughout our interconnected world.

A fresh approach to security is needed. The new approach must account for our modern infrastructure—employees work from home, users need access to information on mobile devices, and supply chains are integrated and interdependent. The new approach should also accommodate changes in the adversaries. Attackers are both more skilled and more motivated. New cybersecurity systems need to assume that infiltrations will occur and must provide tools to localize and limit the damage.

At the core of this new approach is micro-segmentation. If segmentation is analogous to a bank vault, micro-segmentation is akin to the many safe deposit boxes within the vault.

Micro-segmentation is much more secure and inclusive, and easier to implement and manage. It embraces new technologies like clouds, and new business models like integrated supply chains. It delivers real results that are cost-effective and resource efficient.

Micro-segmentation allows enterprise managers to divide physical networks quickly and easily into hundreds or thousands of logical micro networks, or microsegments. Setting up microsegments keeps the different parts of an organization logically separate, thus lowering the intrusion risk. If a breach happens, the intruder can only see one segment.

Micro-segmentation works at the Internet packet level, cryptographically sealing each packet so that only packets within the approved microsegment are processed.

For every packet, the data is completely encrypted, and the routing information in the headers is cryptographically sealed to ensure only authorized delivery. Users can only send and receive packets for a specified group.

Micro-segmentation is implemented by software, and it therefore operates independent of any given network topology or network hardware. Organizations have a single security model that works equally well in local data centers and the public cloud. With micro-segmentation, organizations can extend security to the cloud while retaining control of data in motion and the keys that secure it. Micro-segmentation enables access to the benefits of the cloud—cost savings and network flexibility—without sacrificing security. Micro-segmentation can be quickly and easily implemented within virtual machines to defend against side-channel attacks and other risks that are specific to cloud architectures.

Micro-segmentation makes it easier to integrate component suppliers by providing just the right amount of access. Micro-segmentation can also protect legacy systems, allowing organizations to use older operating systems while keeping them isolated from newer systems.

By embracing a new approach to cybersecurity, we can dramatically increase the strength of our networks and confront the new threat with new tools.